

REMARKS

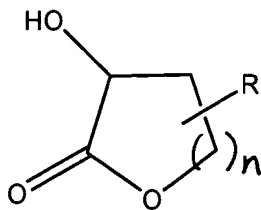
Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

For the reasons given on page 2 of the Official Action, claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) over the disclosure of the Nozaki et al U.S. Patent No. 6,013,416. In particular, it is stated that the mevalonic lactone acrylate of Examples 1-16 of the Nozaki patent anticipates the acid-sensitive polymer compound of the present claims.

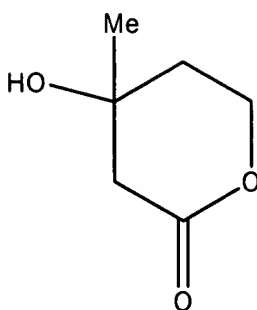
This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The mevalonic lactone acrylate does not anticipate the lactones of the formula recited in claim 1 of the present claims.

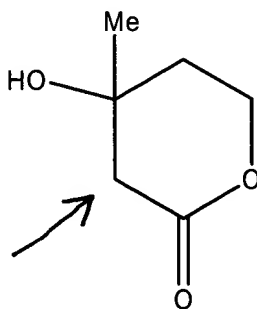
The compounds of the formula recited in claim 1 of the present claims may be derived from a 2-hydroxy-alkylolactone of the formula



On the other hand, mevalonic lactone has the formula



Accordingly, it is apparent that the mevalonic lactone acrylates of the Nozaki patent do not suggest the lactone esters of the present claim 1. In particular, mevalonic lactone esters have an extra methylene group, as shown by the arrow below, which is not present in the lactone recited in the present claim 1.



It will be noted that a copolymer of methacrylic acid (\pm)-mevalonic lactone and methacrylic acid 2-methyl-2-adamantyl is represented as formula (XXIII) on column 21 of the Nozaki patent.

As indicated in the present application, e.g., at page 3, line 35 to page 6, line 15, the

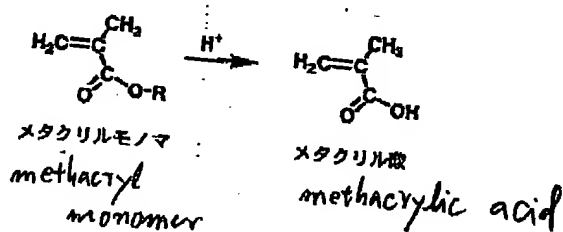
presently claimed lactone esters have superior properties to mevalonic lactone methacrylate.

For the above reasons, the rejection under 35 USC 102 should be withdrawn.

However, it is noted for the record that the present inventor has observed a large difference in the acid reactivity between the lactone of the present invention and the mevalonic lactone of the Nozaki '461 patent.

Results are summarized in the following table, where GBL represents the lactone of the present invention and MLMA represents the mevalonic lactone of the Nozaki '416 patent.

Monomer	Acid conversion (%)
GBL	No reaction
MLMA	82.2



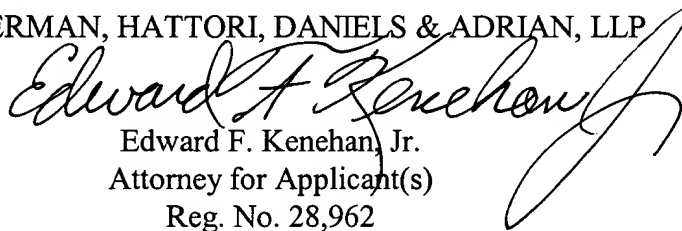
Referring to the table noted above, no formation of methacrylic acid is observed by NMR analysis in the case of GBL, while there is observed formation of methacrylic acid in the case of MLMA with an acid conversion ration of 80% or more.

Allowance is requested.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward F. Kenehan, Jr.", is written over the printed name and title.

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